

STIGMATA

Number 17
SECOND QUARTER - 1982
\$1.50

THE PROJECT STIGMA REPORT ON THE CONTINUING INVESTIGATION INTO THE OCCURRENCE OF ANIMAL MUTILATIONS

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BACK ISSUES: A few copies of the following back issues are available at a cost of \$2.00 (U.S.) per copy: No. 8 (1st Quarter, 1980), No. 9 (2nd Quarter, 1980), No. 10 (3rd Quarter, 1980) and No. 11 (4th Quarter, 1980). Two 1981 editions are currently out-of-print and not available: No. 12 (1st Quarter, 1981) and No. 13 (2nd Quarter, 1981). These will hopefully be reprinted in the near future. Two 1981 editions are still available at a cost of \$1.50 (U.S.) each: Numbers 14 and 15. Any three 1981 and 1982 editions are available for a total cost of \$4.00.

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AN INVESTIGATION IN- PROGRESS

Most of our readers are already familiar with reports regarding an extraordinary UFO incident which occurred northeast of Houston, Texas on the night of December 29, 1980. Three people were involved - two women: Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum - and Mrs. Landrum's 7-year-old grandson, Colby. We'll not attempt to present complete details here. Not only is our space limited, but reports on the case have appeared elsewhere. We'll present a selected bibliography below.

The Cash/Landrum case (which some have termed the "Huffman case", after the small Harris County town nearby) has been and is currently under investigation by John Schuessler, Alan Holt and other members of the Houston area Project VISIT UFO group, which includes several NASA personnel. The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) and the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) have also been involved in the investigation. In the April 1981 MUFON UFO JOURNAL, editor Richard Hall writes that the Cash/Landrum case "promises to be one of the most significant physical evidence cases in modern UFO history". Dr. J. Allen Hynek of CUFOS termed it a "really crucial case" because of the "absolutely, unequivocal physical effects" suffered by the witnesses. Investigator Bill English, formerly of APRO, called it "the most incredible UFO sighting reported in the U.S. in recent years.....an unimpeachable case of three common people who find themselves suddenly caught up in events stranger than the wildest of science fiction". MUFON Associate Director Schuessler says: "I believe fully that (the witnesses) saw a UFO. To not believe them would be foolish, especially after seeing the physical pain they've experienced from it".

The dramatic event unfolded as Betty Cash was driving Vickie Landrum and Colby along a tree-lined rural road in the Dayton-Huffman-New Caney area at around 9:00 PM. They were confronted by a roughly diamond-shaped object, glowing, sporadically spewing fire, emitting a roaring noise and off-and-on beeping sounds, eventually hovering over the road in front of the car. All three witnesses got out to watch; but Colby, then Vickie, soon returned to the supposed safety of the car while Betty stood watching. Eventually the object departed and the three harried percipients were able to make it home. Soon, all three witnesses began to suffer from a myriad of physiological ills. In the MUFON UFO JOURNAL (November 1981), Schuessler said that, while standing outside her car (though the temperature was in the 40's, the car became so heated that the air conditioner had to be turned on to approach a modicum of comfort), Betty Cash had been exposed to the object for 5 to 10 minutes, Vickie for 3 to 5 minutes and Colby for about a minute. Schuessler then summarized the medical effects of each of the witnesses:

Colby: Erythema (reddening of the skin); eyes swollen and watery; stomach pains; diarrhea; anorexia (loss of appetite); some weight loss; increase in tooth cavities.

Vickie: Erythema; photophthalmia (eyes swollen, watery and painful); vision greatly diminished; stomach pains; diarrhea; anorexia; ulceration on the arms, resulting in scarring and loss of pigmentation; karatin affected resulting in fingernail damage; hair loss; hair regrowth of a different texture.

Betty: Erythema; acute photophthalmia; vision impaired; stomach pains; vomiting; diarrhea; anorexia; loss of energy; lethargy; scarring and loss of skin pigmentation; excessive hair loss; hair regrowth of a different texture.

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Betty Cash, who was outside the car the longest, seemed to suffer the most, and Colby the least (though he, convinced at the time that it was "the end of the world", later suffered from nightmares and increased fear and anxiety).

Schuessler reported in UFO REPORT (Winter 1981) that MUFON's radiology consultant...

...concluded that "we have strong evidence that these patients have suffered damage secondary to ionizing radiation. It is also possible there was an infra-red or ultraviolet component as well" This means that the symptoms...could have been caused by ionizing radiation plus ultraviolet and infrared radiation.

Open case...insert helicopters. This, to us, is fully as curious an aspect of the case as the physiological effects. As the roaring object (periodically belching flames and almost seeming to struggle to stay airborne) began to leave the area, flying off to the southwest (in the general direction of Houston), at least 20 and perhaps as many as 23 helicopters appeared. They moved in, surrounded the object, and seemed to "escort" it off into the night. Using helicopter identification charts, the witnesses were able to identify many of the helicopters as Boeing Vertol CH-47's, commonly known as "Chinooks" (large twin-rotor craft, with full rotors at either end, as in the "flying banana" helicopter configuration). The other craft were single-rotored; it wasn't certain, but they appeared to be "Hueys". Additional witnesses have been located in the area who saw either the UFO or one or more helicopters that night. It seems that we can offer three basic potential scenarios for what occurred that 29th of December:

- (1) The UFO itself was extraterrestrial, non-terrestrial, alien or otherwise extramundane in origin, and the "helicopters" were nothing more than UFOs themselves, attending to their "mother ship", perhaps.
- (2) The UFO was "alien", but the helicopters were U.S.-made craft attached to the military.
- (3) The UFO was terrestrial in origin, representing a secret or experimental operation, and the choppers were operating under military auspices.

As they lived through their encounter that night, the witnesses, Vickie Landrum in particular, surmised they were having a religious experience, maybe even the Second Coming itself. Looking back on the incident, however, they felt the object they saw was most likely part of a government-military operation, rather than an intrusion from outer space.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek says of the case: "...we're not sure if it's a government exercise or a UFO sighting". Arizonan Bill English believes the helicopters may very well be "unmanned probes" attached to the extraterrestrial UFO. John Schuessler of MUFON and Project VISIT told Project Stigma that, regarding the helicopters: "It had to be a military operation. It was a military operation. I'm convinced of that. There are no CH-47s on the Gulf Coast that are not military. We've checked very thoroughly".

Some investigators feel that there is a "possibility" that at least some, if not all, of the helicopters came from Gray Air Force Base, located near the Army's massive Fort Hood in Central Texas. The existence of "Gray Field" is no secret, but for some reason it has long been surrounded by a sort of aura of mystery, largely because so few people seem to know what really goes on there. In fact, it was rumored in the mid-1970's that the military was conducting a UFO investigation from a secret installation on either Fort Hood or Gray AFB. In November 1973, well-known ufologist and paranormal investigator Tommy Roy Blann was investigating the UFO "flap" of that period around Calvert, Texas, about 60 miles from the Fort Hood-Gray AFB area. On the night of November 21, Blann, his wife, Linda, and two other witnesses had been watching UFOs cavort over the Brazos River. Blann told writer Timothy Green Beckley (UFO ANNUAL, 1976) that: "As the UFOs bobbed around overhead, we came aware of aircraft and helicopter activity to the north. At one point, one of our military planes circled directly above the UFOs, but kept at a respectable - and safe - distance. Checking with officials at Gray Air Force Base - the closest military installation from where they could have originated - it was admitted that there had been a routine reconnaissance mission in progress that night. However, the officer I spoke with emphatically denied any knowledge of "flying saucers". To my way of thinking...there is no way on Earth...that their pilots could have missed seeing the UFOs unless they were totally blind".

John Schuessler says in UFO REPORT (Winter 1981) that: "Most military installations powered down for the Christmas holidays and flew very few missions..." during that time. Oddly enough, it seems that Gray Air Force Base has admitted that sometime during that period "more than 100 helicopters came in from the field 'for effect'". Over the years, even soldiers and Guardsmen at Fort Hood have been curious about the operations at Gray AFB. As a result of this investigation, it seems likely that the "mystery" of Gray Field will be either deepened or dispelled (and we'll wager on the former).

Schuessler and his team did manage to make contact with an Army Major in the Houston area - a helicopter pilot who claimed to have been piloting a CH-47 on a mission (which he wouldn't detail) that night. Unfortunately the major soon decided he would have nothing more to say on the matter.

So - no mutilation connection here - but our interest in the entire "mystery helicopter" phenomenon (especially those potentially related to the mutes) prompts our great concern and curiosity regarding the Cash/Landrum case.

For further reading regarding this crucial investigation: MUFON UFO JOURNAL (April 1981 and November 1981); APRO BULLETIN (Vol. 29, No. 8, 1981); UFO REPORT (Winter 1981) - plus these more-or-less in-depth newspaper articles: Corpus Christi, Texas CALLER-TIMES (Sept. 13, 1981); Conroe, Texas DAILY COURIER (Feb. 22-23, 1981); HOUSTON CHRONICLE (Sept. 25, 1981); DALLAS TIMES HERALD (Sept. 21, 1981); Liberty, Texas VINDICATOR (Sept. 16, 1981). The nationally-distributed tabloids got into the act, of course (GLOBE, April 28, 1981). One of the first reporters on the scene was Dick Donovan of the WEEKLY WORLD NEWS (March 24, 1981), the NATIONAL ENQUIRER's sister publication. Deviating from the approach taken by so many of his peers, Donovan's article is most credible and minus unnecessary sensationalizing. The NATIONAL ENQUIRER itself later published a full-page article on the subject - yet strangely and incredibly the article did not mention the helicopter aspect of the case. In the fall of 1981, the Cash/Landrum case was covered in an unusually-long segment of ABC-TV's "That's Incredible". Schuessler and well-known UFO journalist Bob Pratt are reportedly working on a book on medical/UFO cases, including much material on the Cash/Landrum case.

Fortean researcher George Andrews has his own ideas about the Cash/Landrum affair, as he shares with us in this letter:

The terrible distress caused to the two women and the child by their UFO experience seems to me from the symptoms described a clear case of over exposure to radioactivity. The symptoms seem almost identical to those described among the survivors of Hiroshima who lived for varying periods of time after the disaster but succumbed to long-term effects of exposure to excessive radioactivity.

This reminds me of the case in Wolverton and Donovan's MYSTERY STALKS THE PRAIRIE (T.H.A.R. Institute; Raynesford, Montana, 1976) in which a rancher and his sons observed a hotel-sized UFO from their pickup truck with many little UFOs around. Then a helicopter came in that the rancher and his boys thought was the U.S. government, at last. But as the helicopter approached the UFO it turned into a UFO which was absorbed by the mother ship.

I suggest that the UFO occupants were probably not aware of the presence of human witnesses in either case, or they wouldn't have conducted operations which reveal their camouflage - unless counting on the fact that hardly anyone believes such stories. My guess is that Betty Cash saw a whole squadron of helicopters as they turned into UFOs and merged with the mother ship, which involved some sort of radioactive energy release, contamina-

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ting the unfortunate ladies who happened to be in close proximity to the event. The rancher and his sons in the Montana case saw only one such craft go through the transformation process, so energy released would have been much less than from the 23 craft observed by Betty Cash and the Landrums. I don't remember how far the rancher's pickup was from the hotel-sized UFO, but I think it was quite a bit further away than the car of the two ladies. I don't think the rancher and his sons had any physical after-effects.

Surely it must be possible to establish definitely whether or not the people in Texas are suffering from over-exposure to radioactivity (possibly also to microwaves). This might turn out to be an important clue to the often-observed process of scout ships merging with a mother ship - often observed, but almost never at close range as with Cash and the Landrums, only a couple of hundred feet away. Their symptoms should give an idea of the type of thing they were exposed to. I may be wrong, but to me it looks a lot like the aftermath of Hiroshima as far as the clinical picture of symptoms described is concerned.

But it doesn't sound to me as if the UFO deliberately blasted Cash and the Landrums, rather that they had the misfortune to be at close range when a major maneuver involving transformation of an entire squadron simultaneously was taking place. It is an open question as to whether the UFO occupants were not aware of human witnesses at close range, or were aware but didn't care. But then why go to the trouble of camouflage if one doesn't care? Seems to me most likely they were not aware of the presence of human witnesses in either the Montana case or the Texas case.

MUTILATION DATA CENTER REPORT

Subject: Cat mutilations in Orange County, California

Beginning in 1979 Orange County, California has been through a series of pet mutilations that bear similarities to the "cattle mutilations". First - chickens, mutilated voodoo-style, left on the yard of a church school in Anaheim Hills. Next - cats, hanged on the grounds of a bank in Huntington Beach. Next - cats in Irvine, found with limbs surgically removed, heads and tails the same. The whole thing was arranged in a sort of "exploded" view of the original animal, with parts about a foot away from the original position.

Next - cats, a rabbit, one dog, in the unincorporated area just east of Tustin, in early 1981. "Cool-it" media stuff says work of large dogs or coyotes. Horse manure! However, there is fairly strong evidence that the animals were captured by a trained dog, which took them into the back of a van traveling late at night.

Last - more cats, within a block of the original chickens in Anaheim Hills. Found cut in half, no blood, apparently done with a very sharp instrument.

All the cats are solid black, solid white, black-and-white or Siamese, with one or two Morris-type cats. There are isolated incidents such as the one in Fountain Valley where a cat was found eviscerated, its guts arranged in a neat triangle just to the rear of the carcass. There were similar incidents in Garden Grove and near Orange.

The equivalent of "non-classic" here is over one thousand missing cats. Actual carcasses runs about 100, all told. All groupings except at the bank were on the edge of school grounds where joggers run a track that is part of the sporting area of the school - and were near a freeway interchange. Some animals were found on the school grounds. There is a common thread of witnesses who saw a scruffy-looking middle-aged man driving a splotchy gray van, with a large white dog. A similar individual was seen running the jogging track of one school. One special incident in Garden Grove involves two men in an auto trying to get friendly with a black cat under suspicious circumstances.

Some mild public panic; high police panic. The usual "scavengers/cult/nut" theories. And, of course, "It never happened".

Now the odd part: From the publicity, I got a phone call from a guy who let it slip that he is part of the Office of Naval Research - this is the technical and scientific intelligence branch of the Navy - the real-life model for OSI of "Six Million Dollar Man" fame. When I hit the intelligence aspect of ONR, he clammed up and disappeared back into the woodwork. Now what the hell is Naval Intelligence doing in a two-bit pet mutilation sequence? Curiouser and curiouser.

So I invited another Army intelligence-connected guy to attend a meeting that never really went anywhere. Since then, not much action - this was in November of 1981.

Also, since then there has been a whispering campaign against me in Orange County which isn't really going anywhere either so I don't worry about it (the usual rumors of chasing little girls and boys, one accusation of "indecent exposure", some gross exaggerations of some of my older activity). Beats me! But I'd like to hear from anybody else who has a comparable series of urban pet mutilations. If the mutes are that common in urban areas, too, it is something we all ought to know --- and would change the entire picture considerably.

(Contact: E. Edwin Austin; Mutilation Data Center; 4623 East Washington - Apt. 20; Orange, California 92669)

Editor's note: In Dallas, Texas, in the mid-1970's, there were reports (though unconfirmed, to our knowledge) of dog disappearances, killings and/or mutilations being conducted by someone in a van. Any readers with knowledge of similar activity is encouraged to contact Ed Austin of MDC or Project Stigma.

A CLOSER LOOK – 1981

CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE

Fernie, British Columbia

On Saturday, May 16, 1981 at around 8:00 PM, it was light enough for a motorist passing the White Spruce Ranch near Fernie to see what appeared to be a cow down on the ground near Highway 3. The next morning another motorist saw the same animal. He notified the owner, rancher and newspaper editor Lloyd Phillips, who called the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). When the first motorist, Lewis Cloutier, saw the animal Saturday evening, he was fairly certain that the head and face area was not damaged or mutilated (although apparently and admittedly he did not take a close-up look). Plus, the animal was found by Phillips lying in a different position from that on Saturday evening.

Upon examination of the 3-year-old female Hereford, it was noted that half the tongue was missing, the anus had been removed and a portion of the right side of the face had been cut away. Hide and hair in a half-moon segment (which included the eyelid) was cleanly removed from above the right eye. There was not the slightest nick or cut in the underlying flesh. There was a hole in the upper right chest cavity near the shoulder. Although apparently made with a sharp instrument, it looked as though dogs or coyotes might have chewed on that area, as well. And, there was a "lateral cut" on the neck.

It is felt that the killing of the cow took place the night of May 15-16 as it was seen alive and well on the 15th (and the question remains whether the mutilation or some additional mutilation may have been performed on the carcass the night of the 16th-17th). Veterinarian Dr. David Lawson of Fernie examined the carcass in the field, and the RCMP arrived to investigate. For an account of the controversy resulting from these investigations, we present an excerpt from the FERNIE FREE PRESS of May 27, 1981, authored by Bruce Ramsey, like Lloyd Phillips, an editor of the FREE PRESS:

Conflicting statements from the two constables from the RCMP's livestock investigation section in Kamloops and Fernie veterinarian Dr. David Lawson, who conducted the autopsy on the mutilated cow, confuse even more an already confusing situation. The full RCMP report has not yet been received. The RCMP believe the animal died from natural causes, but they admitted to rancher Lloyd Phillips that they had no explanation for an eight or nine inch cut in the neck which runs, not across, but in a lateral direction, cutting squarely the large tendon in the neck. It was not frayed or chewed as would be the case if a predator had felled the animal.

Dr. Lawson said he was unable to determine the cause of death "on the basis of my examination". In his official report, Dr. Lawson noted "the wounds on the head definitely appeared to have been made sometime after the animal's death, and quite possibly the other wounds as well". The external wounds appeared to fall into two categories. The wounds on

(from the FERNIE FREE PRESS - cont.):

the rear end and the neck and shoulder appeared to be characteristic of damage inflicted by carnivorous animals, with irregular edges, shredding of the tissues, and what appeared to be tooth marks".

Then, Dr. Lawson concludes with this significant remark: "The wounds on the head appeared to have been made much more cleanly except for the irregular part on the muzzle. I find it difficult to imagine how an animal could have made the skin wounds or cut off the tongue so deeply inside the mouth. Therefore, it appeared more likely that wounds on the head were made by a person using a sharp instrument".

Phillips...does not rule out the possibility that the animal died from eating a poisonous plant, but he is critical of the authorities who did not send the vital organs to a pathological laboratory in Lethbridge to determine scientifically the cause of death.

"I am critical of the fact that no examination of the stomach contents was made, no examination of the liver and no examination of the glands in the flank or shoulder areas was made", Phillips said, adding that when government inspectors check animals at an abattoir, the first thing they examine is the glands and if they are not up to scratch the animal is consigned to dog food.

The question of the animal dying of natural causes is questioned by Phillips and other area ranchers who examined the mutilated corpse. Phillips maintains the animal was not bloated, no symptoms of black leg, nor symptoms of haemorrhagic septicaemia which affects the blood stream, nor were there symptoms of grass tetany which occurs in the spring when the animals are turned out into the green grass.

"I am at a loss to know what the police mean when they attributed death came from natural causes, except the possibility the animal could have eaten a poisonous plant, such as larkspur or wild parsnip, the presence of which could have been determined by blood samples or any examination of the stomach contents. No blood or tissue samples were taken".

Phillips said that in some statements attributed to the RCMP, they said predators go for the softer parts of an animal, which I agree with, "but in the light of that," he questioned, "Why would the predators go for the bony area above the eye, take only the hide and hair, leaving the flesh untouched? Also, in the area above the eye, you could see where hairs had been cut as if by a knife or scissors. To me that indicates it was no predator that mutilated the cow", he stated.

With regards to the tongue, the police said it was normal for a dead animal to have its tongue protruding, and Mr. Phillips agrees with that. The police, he said, stated that if the tongue was protruding a coyote or other predators would bite it off. That, they say, is the reason why half the tongue is missing.

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(from the FERNIE FREE PRESS - cont.):

"The police told me that anyone cutting the tongue from the side of the mouth would be cutting it at an angle. It was not cut at an angle. In actual fact, there were signs which indicated to me that the tongue had been cut half way from one side to half way from the other, because in the center of the tongue there were two notches that did not jibe. It was cut at a right angle, a square cut", Phillips said.

Further, he stated the eyes were untouched, and he pointed out that, normally, animals go after the eyes.

Also, predators go into the flesh of the haunch, but in this case, the flesh of the haunch was untouched. All that was taken was approximately four inches of the large intestine.

When the RCMP team came from Kamloops - Const. M.J. Chorney and Const. R.J. Convey - they gave Phillips a copy of an article from Penthouse magazine on cattle mutilations which was subtitled "The Truth At Last". Phillips has no quarrel with the article (STIGMATA note: we do - see STIGMATA No. 11) although he wonders what the qualifications of the writer, David Rorvik, are. He wonders, too, about something else.

"I think", he said, "the RCMP investigation was geared to fit what was said in this article. They had a preconceived idea that there were no mutilations. There had to be a natural explanation."

They argue, Phillips said, that blow flies eat the hide so it looks as if it were cut with a knife. "I say there were no blowflies anywhere around", he said, and the enlargements of pictures he took of the dead animal show no trace of them.

"I will give \$10 to the Tom Uphill Memorial Home for every blow fly that shows up in those photos", he said.

As Dr. Lawson pointed out in his report, "the wounds on the head were made by a person using a sharp instrument". That is the real mystery, and one that causes no end of concern to everybody involved in the cattle industry.

Phillips has a theory - that the cut on the neck might have resulted from somebody shooting the animal with a dart gun and then, using a sharp knife, cut the dart out in a lateral direction, removing the tell-tale evidence.

He reports that a man told him that about the time the incident is believed to have occurred, he spotted a small-sized bluish car, similar to a 1971 Valiant, parked beside the road, and two men were standing beside the car. And, Phillips does not believe the animal was mutilated to observe some weird occult rite.

USA - NEW HAMPSHIRE

Before describing in detail the 1981 mutilation incident which occurred in New Hampshire, we'll delve into a case from 1978, thereby summing up the known history of classic animal mutilations in that state (at least, to our knowledge). We were first informed of the October 1978 case, near Piermont, NH, upon reading Curtis Fuller's "I See By The Papers" column in the April 1979 edition of FATE Magazine. Recently, renowned Fortean sleuth Loren Coleman obtained additional information regarding the case, in the form of the following newspaper article from the October 4, 1978 JOURNAL-OPINION of Bradford, Vermont, across the Connecticut River from Piermont:

The strange and unusual circumstances in which a steer had been slaughtered still remains a mystery. Charles Morrill, operator of the Morrill Farm in Piermont found his 1000-pound steer in the meadowland along the Connecticut River on Thursday, September 27. Morrill's last check of his herd was on Tuesday, sometime after 11 AM. He had made a head count and was satisfied that 175 head of cattle were secure. When Morrill again checked his herd on Thursday, he found the dead steer. The rest of the herd was grazing further down in the meadow. Morrill had noticed the suspicious absence of birds or other predators near the carcass of the steer, for that matter, in the meadow.

Closer examination of the steer revealed the unusual way the steer had been mutilated. Rigor mortis had set in; the steer was bloated throughout its entire body. The left eye of the animal had been carved out of the head, as with a sharp knife or instrument. The rectum had also been removed much the same way. The animal's penis had been severed to within two inches of the body and one teat had been mutilated. Around the carcass, where the dried blood had matted the grass, could be seen what looked to be prints. These alleged prints were near the front, as well as the rear of the animal. Also, just behind the left ear of the steer could be seen what appeared to be fingerprints, as if someone had wiped his finger on the nape of the neck. Although no autopsy was performed on the animal, Morrill could not visually see any area where a bullet may have entered the carcass. The remains of the steer was picked up by the Maxim Fur Company of Burlington, Vermont, to be butchered for animal feed. A representative of that company told the JOURNAL-OPINION that they were not asked, nor did they check for anything unusual with the animal. However, they did say the meat was rotten and they disposed of it rather than use it.

The Grafton County Farm Bureau said they had no reports of similar incidents in the Grafton County area. Scott Robie of Piermont, who is an outdoorsman and hunter, said he had never seen any wildlife, bird or animal, feed on a carcass the same way this steer had been found. He said, "Coyote will rip into the steaks of beef. Other predators will go for the delicacies and in this

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case, the tongue was not even touched". Charles Morrill has been in the farming business all his life. He started milking cows at the age of 4. Morrill took over his family farm after his father died. Morrill was then 18 years old. At that time his farm was located on Route 10, also in Piermont. Morrill now farms about 400 acres of land. He said he had never seen anything as strange as the steer he lost. He estimates his loss at about five hundred dollars.

We are again indebted to Loren Coleman for informing us of the second New Hampshire mutilation report - from Carroll County in the eastern part of the state in October of 1981. Loren submitted the following newspaper article, from the NEW HAMPSHIRE SUNDAY NEWS of Manchester, dated October 4, 1981 and headlined: "Local Officials Remain Puzzled By Strange Death of Hereford":

Tuftonboro, Oct. 3 - Charles Whitten has a dead cow on his hands and no explanation to how it met its demise. Whitten, who raises beef cows, found the disfigured body of a seven-year-old polled Hereford dead in his pasture at 9 a.m. Thursday morning. The cow was missing an ear, an eye had been ripped from its socket, half its nose was missing, its cheek and lower jaw were laid open to the bone and half its tongue was gone. Whitten said "there was no sign of any struggle it was just like somebody laid her there". Not only was there no sign of any struggle but there was absolutely no blood at the site according to Conservation Officer Lt. Peter Lyons. "I don't think the cow was shot or that an animal killed it", Lyons said. "There were no tracks, no other marks on the body, or any signs of a struggle; the strangest phenomenon was there was absolutely no blood". A search of the area by Whitten failed to turn up the missing ear. Whitten said he was also amazed at how fast and how completely the animal bloated. "I have never seen one bloat up so quick in cool weather", said Whitten. He went on to say that he never saw an animal feed that way. "An animal will usually go for the soft parts first...The way it was disfigured with no signs of any tracks or struggle and with no blood around it just doesn't add up, it's mysterious", said Whitten. Matt Craigue, a Western cattleman from Tuftonboro, said after viewing the cow that he had never seen anything like it and that perhaps the disfigurement could have been with a knife. But he had no explanation as to how the cow died.

Then, according to a later newspaper article (PORTSMOUTH(NH) HERALD, October 12, 1981, credit: Betty Hill), it appears that, for whatever reason, Lt. Lyon(s?) decided that perhaps it wasn't so strange after all:

The mysterious mutilation of a seven-year-old cow last week was blamed on everything from aliens to cults, but investigators say the cow probably died of a heart attack. Charles Whitten, a farmer, found the cow in his

pasture. An eye, ear and part of the Hereford's tongue and nose were missing, authorities said. People from all over the country have barraged Whitten, police and the Fish and Game Department with dozens of theories. "They range from flying saucers to witchcraft," said Fish and Game Lt. Peter Lyon (sic). The investigator said the cow died of natural causes, probably a blood clot in the heart, and was mutilated by other animals and birds.

Mrs. Betty Hill - who, along with her late husband, Barney, was involved in a famous and harrowing UFO incident in 1961 (which is considered to be virtually the prototypal UFO abduction case and which has been the subject of a book, TV-movie and numerous shorter works) - has in the ensuing years become a UFO and paranormal investigator in her own right. And, it happens that Mrs. Hill owns property in the mountains of Carroll County, not far from the Center Tuftonboro/Wolfeboro-area farm of Charles Whitten. She visited the farm, and we are grateful to Betty for the report she has submitted, as follows:

On October 12, 1981, our local newspaper carried a small item about the mutilation of a cow, so I called the family and visited them on October 15th. Jean and Charles Whitten live in Center Tuftonboro, NH. He is a farmer - mostly beef cattle - and she works the midnight shift at the local hospital in Wolfeboro as a nurses' aide. He owns 600 acres of land, apparently inherited from his family as he has been living in the same house since he was two years old. The land includes acres of trees, as well as cleared land. This family is the only one in this area who grows beef cattle. Most are Herefords. The cow that died was seven years old and was used as a breeder. A next-door neighbor has milking cows, and as of October 2, he is putting them in the barn at night, because...

On the morning of October 1st, about 9 AM, the Whittens were leaving the house when Jean looked toward the pasture where they keep their cattle, and made a comment about one cow, which looked different. Mr. Whitten picked up his binoculars to get a better look, and could see the cow was lying on her back with all four legs straight up in the air. As he walked across the pasture, all the other cows were a distance away from this cow; but when he approached they all came toward him and began circling around the dead cow. He has a herd of twenty cows and had one bull which he had borrowed from a friend. He looked at the dead cow and could not believe what he was seeing. One half of her face had been cut away, clean down to the bones. The cutting ran between the nostrils, circled one eye and one ear and down into the neck. The mouth was closed but half the tongue had been removed from the cut-away side. The jugular vein had been cut across, without any blood showing. All the cutting was very smooth, with no rough spots.

Mr. Whitten returned to the house and called Lawrence Toms, a veterinarian who lives in Wolfeboro. He came out and checked the cow to see if he could find the cause of death. It is believed the cow died instantly for no traces of a struggle were found. He has had

cows die before and they do struggle during the process. No cause of death was found. It was decided to leave the cow for a day to see what would happen. Incidentally, the cow was badly bloated when it was found, although the weather was very cool. All day, the other cows stayed around the dead cow, circling it.

At the suggestion of the vet, Mr. Whitten called the authorities and reported this. The police Chief is Bill Keyes, who has been overwhelmed with calls from all over the country since the publicity started. The next day the vet, Lawrence Toms, did a complete autopsy on the cow. The "effects of a needle" were found in the jugular vein, to quote Mr. Whitten. There was no blood in the body and no apparent cause of death. The newspaper had reported a blood clot in the heart was the cause, but Mr. Whitten said this was not true; no clot was found. Also, Fish and Game Commission members told him that it must be animals or birds, but no teeth marks or other signs of animals were found. He has seen animals killed by other animals so he knows the traces left - there were none in this situation.

The Whittens are puzzled and upset by this event. They checked all the fences around the pasture and did not find any traces of anyone going over a fence - no grass trampled down. The entrance gate to the pasture is behind their home and the dog would bark if anyone tried to enter - he is chained and sleeps outdoors. If he did any barking, it was not unusual - nothing to attract attention as he would have done if a stranger tried to enter the yard. They did not hear any sounds that night, but the next day they heard a helicopter but they could not see it. Then a low-flying plane circled the pasture (Bill Jackson of the Greeley, Colorado TRIBUNE talked to a New Hampshire reporter who said there were unconfirmed rumors and "talk" of "black helicopters" around one of the nearby towns). Since then, the Whittens learned that three men visited the Libby Museum in Wolfeboro and asked if there were any sheep in the area, as they were looking for some for religious purposes. A few are in the area, but the men apparently did not go to the owners, and the sheep are all right - nothing has happened to them. A check was made with the local library, and it was found that a great interest in witchcraft has developed since the cow was killed, for all the books were on loan but two.

At first Charles Whitten thought someone in the town had done this for revenge, but he was sure if a person had done this, he probably would have shot the cow. He is one of the three Selectmen of the town and probably has made some enemies by some of his decisions. But the vet looked for signs of a bullet and there were none. Whoever did the cutting was very skilled.

I walked out in the pasture with Mr. Whitten to the spot where the cow was found. He said this spot, where the head lay, had been wet, and had something that looked like saliva on the ground. Now the grass is dead in that one spot. I would estimate the distance from the home to be about 500 yards. I looked around for any kinds of markings on the ground and found nothing. The ground is hard, grass covered and eaten off at a close level by the cows. The pasture itself is tree-lined on two sides and partially tree-lined on the 3rd

side. Deep woods are on these two sides, but Mr. Whitten told me that power lines cut through the woods about a half-mile from the pasture. The family is completely baffled by this event, and they are afraid it might happen again. They do not have any outside lights, only one light on the porch. They may install yard lights or keep the porch light burning. The weather of September 30/October 1 was very cool, a very dark night with no moon or stars.

This area is one of rolling hills, rural and houses not very close together. About 15 miles away, via highways, are the Ossipee Mountains, which can be seen very clearly from the Whitten home. I have received so many UFO reports from this general area that it would be impossible to count them all. People have told me that the mountains are "haunted" by UFOs. To the south is Wolfeboro, another area with a high number of sightings. I was sitting in my car on the night of July 4th, waiting for the fireworks to begin, and a group of children were sitting on a park bench in front of me. They were telling each other to watch a certain spot in the sky for that is the spot where the UFOs come in each time to watch the fireworks. So I watched and saw one come in, using all red lights, and now I realize it was in the direction of Center Tuftonboro.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Ossipee Mountains is that most of the area can not be entered - no roads, miles of territory uninhabited. Some times hunters may go into the mountains a short distance, but they do not stay long - fearful of becoming lost. There are no trails.

Mrs. Whitten told me that the month of October is known in Wolfeboro as UFO month, for this is the time of the year when they reach a peak in numbers, and right now everyone is talking about UFOs all the time.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Whitten told Project Stigma that the killing and mutilation of the animal was done on that night of September 30/October 1, as there had been nothing on that spot (where the carcass was found) the day before. And he reiterated that the amount of bloat was very puzzling in view of the cool weather at that time. They have had other animals die of natural causes in similarly-cool weather but there had never been so much bloat so early as in this case.

In STIGMATA No. 15, the pseudonymous "X-9" rejected "out of hand" the claims of the equally pseudonymous "Toulinet" regarding the astounding (if true!) "Project Grudge Report No. 13" (STIGMATA No. 14). We will attempt to include some comments in rebuttal (although not from "Toulinet") in our next issue.

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Old Mute?

Canadian Researcher Dwight Whalen sent in the following historical item, a newsclipping from the Niagara Falls, Ontario DAILY RECORD of February 8, 1909, headlined "Cattle Killed in Cruel Manner - Elgin Farmer Suffers by a Malignant Enemy":

St. Thomas, Ontario, February 7 --- Tom Gilbert, a well-known farmer residing near Fingal, has lost several of his cattle since Christmas, and 11 were affected in the same way. Several this week became affected and a couple died. Examination by veterinaries from St. Thomas found that a sharp instrument had been forced down their throats, terribly lacerating them, and had almost severed the windpipes. The remainder of the cattle injured will all die, six having already gone.

Mr. Gilbert has no idea who the offending parties are. The authorities are working on the case and have found a broken pick-handle sharpened to a point and covered with blood which may have been one of the instruments of torture used.

"Strange Harvest" Transcripts

For that majority of our readership who have not been able to see "A Strange Harvest", the 1980 television documentary on the subject of livestock mutilations - transcripts of the program are available for purchase by the public, according to "Harvest" producer-writer-director Linda Moulton Howe, the award-winning Director of Special Projects at CBS-affiliate KMGH-TV in Denver, Colorado. The transcripts are \$5.00 each postpaid. Checks or money orders should be made out to "KMGH-TV". Order directly from:

Linda Moulton Howe,
Director of Special Projects
KMGH-TV
P.O. Box 5007
Denver, Colorado 80217

We do not send out expiration notices when subscriptions are running out. We prefer that everyone simply subscribe to the 4 issues of a particular year. Then, when the last quarterly issue for that year is received, the subscriber will know that it is time to renew for another year of sizzling mute-data-delicacies.

Lack of space prevented inclusion of our mute-movie roundup in this issue, so we'll try again next issue to discuss one movie semi-released and one coming later this year.
